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Atty Docket No.: 2401.139.US

In re the PATENT application of

Kenneth Adams et al

Serial No.: 10/781,852

Filed: February 20, 2004

For: Surgical Elongate Blade Assembly with Interchangeable Inner Member,
Kit and Method Relating Thereto

MAIL STOP: PATENT APPLICATION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Transmitted herewith are the following documents for filing in the subject patent
application:

Information Disclosure Statement;

List of References Cited By Applicant(s) (FORM PTO 1449); and

One copy each of eight (8) U.S. patents.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert H. Epstein
Registration No. 24,354

Hand-Delivered: April 9, 2004



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

MAIL STOP: PATENT APPLICATION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

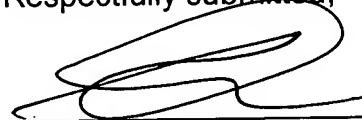
Pursuant to the duty imposed by 37 C.F.R. §1.56 to disclose information which may be material to the above-identified patent application, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed on the enclosed Information Disclosure Statement. Copies of the documents listed are enclosed herewith.

Since this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed in compliance with 37 C.F.R §1.97(b), within three (3) months of the filing date of the above-identified application and/or prior to the mailing date of the first Official Action, no fee is required in connection with its filing.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any

such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'R. Epstein', written over a horizontal line.

Robert H. Epstein
Registration No. 24,353

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Sheet 1 of 1

FORM PTO 1449 (modified)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICELIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S)
(Use several sheets if necessary)

Date Submitted to PTO:

APR 09 2004

ATTY DOCKET NO.
2401.139.US

SERIAL NO. 10/781,852

APPLICANT
Kenneth M. Adams et alFILING DATE
02/20/04

GROUP

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
		5,601,586	02/11/97	Fucci et al			
		5,690,660	11/25/97	Kauker et al			
		5,741,287	04/21/98	Alden et al			
		5,766,200	06/16/98	Mazurek et al			
		5,857,995	01/12/99	Thomas et al			
		5,910,152	06/08/99	Bays			
		5,922,003	07/13/99	Anctil			
		6,533,749	03/18/03	Mitusina et al			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES/NO/ OR ABSTRACT

OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.